



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY IN CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former member of a Tulsa street gang pleaded guilty today to his role in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in Jasper County.

Brian L. McDaniel, also known as “Barrion,” 27, who is in the custody of the United States Marshals Office in the Northern District of Oklahoma, pleaded guilty before Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of crack.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **McDaniel** admitted that he engaged in the distribution of crack cocaine in and around the Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Joplin, Mo., areas as a member of the Tulsa area Red Mob Gangsters street gang, from July 1999 through July 2001.

On or about Dec. 9, 1999, **McDaniel** sold approximately one gram of crack cocaine to a confidential informant, Graves said. On different occasions, Graves added, law enforcement officers seized quantities of crack cocaine, drug paraphernalia and cash from two homes that were used by **McDaniel** to store and distribute drugs and money. When a search warrant was executed in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on July 8, 2001, officers found **McDaniel** in possession of crack cocaine and cash.

According to Graves, the total amount of crack cocaine attributable to **McDaniel** in today’s plea agreement is at least 500 grams but less than 1.5 kilograms.

As a result of **McDaniel’s** plea agreement, he could be subject to a sentence ranging from a minimum 20 years in prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$8 million. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Rush. It was investigated by the Joplin Police Department, the Jasper County Drug Task Force, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, the Joplin Area Major Case Squad, the Tulsa Police Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Jasper County Sheriff's Department, the Newton County Sheriff's Department, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), and the Springfield Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow